

REMARKS

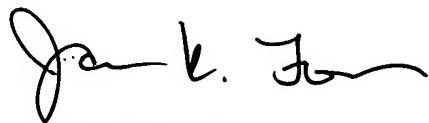
Applicant respectfully request approval of the above-noted amendments to Claims 10-16 and 18-20. These proposed amendments correct the dependencies of Claims 10-16 and 18-20. Without these amendments, Claims 10-16 and 18-20 would either be redundant to other claims or terms of the claims would lack antecedent basis. For example, if Claim 10 continued to refer to Claim 1, it would be redundant with Claim 2, and if Claims 11-13 continued to refer to Claim 9 (instead of to Claim 10), the term "the rigidity of said nonlinear spring" would lack antecedent basis. Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the proposed amendments are permissible, and such entry is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that further clarification is necessary, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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